

Insights

Take Five: 5 Things You Need to Know About Indiana Government - April 2026 - Pre-Primary

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1. Congressional Primaries

Primary elections for all nine of Indiana's Congressional seats loom on May 5, but these races seem unlikely to offer any surprises. District boundaries remain unchanged after President Trump's failed effort to have the General Assembly draw new lines. The State Senate's refusal to bow to White House demands could create more drama when final votes are tallied in November, but the primary season will be quieter. President Trump endorsed Republican incumbents Marlin Stutzman, Jim Baird, Victoria Spartz, Jefferson Shreve, Mark Messmer, and Erin Houchin. Absent any surprises, those Representatives will survive to make the case for retention to voters in the general election. Second District Congressman Rudy Yakym did not receive Trump's endorsement for this run, but only because he has no primary opposition. In the Fifth, Democratic State Senator J.D. Ford is the best known candidate in a field of seven vying for the nomination to take on Congresswoman Spartz. Northwest Indiana Republicans have targeted three-term Democratic Congressman Frank Mrvan in recent election cycles, but his last two Republican opponents declined to enter the race this year after Trump's stalled effort to get new district maps. Republican Barb Regnitz has a significant fundraising advantage over her primary opponents, and she seems to be the favorite to oppose Mrvan in the fall. Democratic Congressman Andre Carson is facing his toughest race in years, but he is expected to prevail over former statewide candidate and attorney Destiny Wells and attorney and Obama alum George Hornedo.

2. Secretary of State

Incumbent Secretary of State Diego Morales (R) faces a tough re-election campaign this year, not only from fellow Republicans, but also a possible Democratic challenger with one of the biggest names in Indiana political history, and a potential independent candidate that was a two-term mayor of Indianapolis. But first, Secretary Morales must prevail in the State Republican Convention, which is scheduled for June 20th.

Nominees for Secretary of State are not chosen in a primary, but instead are chosen by party delegates during their respective state conventions. In the GOP Convention, Secretary Morales is being challenged by Knox County Clerk David Shelton and Jamie Reitenour, who sought the Republican nomination for Governor in 2024. On the Democratic side, Beau Bayh, son of former Governor and US Senator Evan Bayh, is running for the office that his dad held from 1986-1989. He will face businesswoman Blythe Potter in the Democratic State Convention, which is being held on June 6th. Former Republican Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard is trying to enter the race as an independent under the "Lincoln Party" label but needs to collect approximately 37,000 voter signatures by mid-July to appear on the November ballot. Lauri Shillings will be on the ballot this fall as the Libertarian Party candidate.

3. Indiana State Senate Primaries

Several incumbent Republican Senators are facing strong primary challenges this spring, with many of those challenges resulting from the failed attempt last year to redraw Indiana’s Congressional maps. Last December, the Indiana General Assembly considered legislation that would have redrawn Indiana’s Congressional districts, a process that normally occurs every ten years after the national census is conducted. The move would likely have resulted in two additional Republican seats in Congress. And while the House passed HB 1032, the Senate rejected the proposal on a 19-31 vote. Eight Senate Republicans- Dan Dernulc (R- Highland), Rick Niemeyer (R- Lowell), Linda Rogers (R- Granger), Travis Holdman (R- Markle), Jim Buck (R- Kokomo), Spencer Deery (R- West Lafayette), Greg Goode (R- Terre Haute), and Greg Walker (R- Columbus)- are now facing primary challenges, largely because of their “no” vote on redistricting. President Trump has endorsed the challengers in all of those contests, with the exception being the challenger to Sen. Niemeyer. Political action committees aligned with both President Trump and Governor Mike Braun are targeting the incumbents with negative ads.

Six Republicans that supported HB 1032 also face primary challenges, but only two of them appear to be serious contests. Sen. Liz Brown and Sen. Ron Alting both voted for the redistricting proposal and received President Trump’s endorsement, but both have legitimate challengers. No Democratic incumbents face a primary challenge. There are contested primaries in both parties for two open seats- SD 29, which is currently held by Democratic Senator JD Ford, who is running for Congress, and SD 31, which is currently held by retiring Republican Senator Kyle Walker.

District	Republican	Democrat
SD 1	*Dan Dernulc Trevor De Vries Nader Liddawi	Scott Houdieson
SD 4	Johannes Poulard Nate Uldricks	*Rodney Pol
SD 6	*Rick Niemeyer Jay Starkey	Kate-Lynn Holley
SD 11	*Linda Rogers Brian Schmutzler	Gabrianna Gratzol
SD 14	*Tyler Johnson	Blaine Sefton
SD 15	*Liz Brown Darren Vogt	Chloe Andis Julie McGill
SD 17	*Nick McKinley Michael Hensley Chris Parker	Cynthia M. Wehr
SD 19	*Travis Holdman Blake Fletcher	Timothy C Murphy
SD 21	*Jim Buck Tracey Powell	Joseph Kazlas Kirsten Root
SD 22	*Ron Alting	Marlena Edmondson

SD 23	Richard Bagsby *Spencer Deery Paula Copenhaver	Natasha Baker David Sanders
SD 25	*Mike Gaskill	Tamie Dixon-Tatum Todd Shelton
SD 26	*Scott Alexander Katherine Nunley-Kritsch	Andrew Dale
SD 27	*Jeff Raatz Anthony Jones	Ronald Itnyre
SD 29	Mike Delph John Ruckelshaus V. Roni Ford	David W Greene Jr. Demetrice Hicks Kristina Moorhead Kevin Short
SD 31	Jaunita Albright Tiffanie Dittlevson Travis Hankins Jan Kepley Keefer	Andrew Dezelan Kerry J Forestal Lasima O Packett Catherine Torzewski
SD 38	*Greg Goode Alexandra Wilson Brenda K Wilson	Kacey Blundell
SD 39	Tanner Bouchie Jeff Ellington Kristi Risk	Joseph Baughman
SD 41	*Greg Walker Michelle Davis	Ross Thomas
SD 43	*Randall D Maxwell Joe Volk	Byron E Holland
SD 45	*Chris Garten	Nick Marshall
SD 47	*Gary Bryne	Ethan Sweetland-May
SD 48	*Daryl Schmitt	Brad Hochesang
SD 49	*Jim Tomes Brandi Durham Pugh	Cindi Clayton

* Denotes incumbent

4. Indiana State House Primaries

While the Senate is embroiled in several hotly contested primaries from the right by President Trump-endorsed challengers, primary races in the House of Representatives are much quieter. Indeed, House members seem

to have entirely avoided any backlash attributable to negative votes on Congressional redistricting. In fact, the President has endorsed 10 House Republicans who supported redistricting and have contested primaries, while Governor Braun has endorsed 13 incumbents. Still, there are a few House Republican incumbents with significant primary challenges.

In House District 20, Rep. Jim Pressel (R- Rolling Prairie), current Chair of the House Committee on Roads and Transportation, faces Juanita Haney, the current LaPorte County Treasurer. Data centers and utility costs appear to be front and center in the contest.

In House District 40, House Republican Caucus Chair Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R- Avon) is running against Sid Mahant, a perennial candidate for office and an owner of a trucking business. Mahant has received backlash for changing his voter registration multiple times in recent years (in 2024 he ran in the Republican primary for Congress in a district that does not include the state House District he seeks in 2026) and an alleged past financial contribution to a Democratic statehouse candidate. However, Mahant has invested significant personal funds toward his campaign.

Finally, House District 45 sees a rematch between 10-term incumbent Rep. Bruce Borders (R- Jasonville) and Knox County Commissioner Kellie Streeter. Rep. Borders defeated Commissioner Streeter by a slim margin in the 2024 primary, which included a third candidate (former Rep. Jeff Ellington, who is now running for an open state Senate seat). It is unclear how a direct rematch between Streeter and Borders will play out this year in a head-to-head contest.

There are two incumbent Democratic House members with primary challengers, Rep. Matt Pierce (D- Bloomington) and Rep. John Bartlett (D- Indianapolis), and both are expected to prevail.

District	Republican	Democrat
HD 1		*Carolyn Jackson
HD 2		*Earl Harris Jr
HD 3		*Ragen Hatcher
HD 4	*Ed Soliday	Ryan Kominakis
HD 5	*Dale DeVon	Alex Wait
HD 6		*Maureen Bauer
HD 7	*Jake Teshka	Oliver Davis
HD 8		*Ryan Dvorak
HD 9	Chris Cleveland	*Randy Novak
HD 10	Ted Uzelac	*Chuck Moseley
HD 11	*Michael J Aylesworth	Tyler Thomas Badges
HD 12	Chris Nelson	*Mike Andrade
HD 13	*Matt Commons	Brenna Geswein Ed Moyer Jr
HD 14		*Vernon Smith
HD 15	*Hal Slager	Anthony Oberman
HD 16	*Kendell Culp	Ashley Hammac
HD 17	*Jack Jordan	Mary E Gibson

HD 18	*David H Abbott	
HD 19	*Julie Olthoff	Nick Neal
HD 20	*Jim Pressel	Alicia Firanek
	Juanita Haney	Laura Liskey
HD 21	*Timothy Wesco	Charles Burkley
HD 22	*Craig Snow	
	Daniel R Koors	
HD 23	*Ethan Manning	Austin D Melves
HD 24	*Hunter Smith	Rachael Bleicher
HD 25	*Becky Cash	Tiffany Stoner
HD 26	Magdalaine Davis	*Chris Campbell
HD 27	Oscar Alvarez	*Sheila Klinker
HD 28	*Jeffery A Thompson	Karen Whitney
HD 29	*Alaina Shonkwiler	Coumba Kebe
		Devon Wellington
HD 30	Ray A Collins	Jack Chance
	Paula Davis	
HD 31	*Lori Goss-Reaves	Katie Robins
HD 32		*Victoria Garcia Wilburn
HD 33	*JD Prescott	John E Bartlett
HD 34	Richard M Ivy	Sarah Gullion
	Randall L McCallister	
	Tim Overton	
	Chris Walker	
HD 35	*Elizabeth Rowray	Phil Gift
HD 36	*Kyle Pierce	Kimberly Townsend
		Brookelyne N George
		Novhad E Melki, II
HD 37	*Todd Huston	Lauren S Cole
		Joel Levi
HD 38	*Heath R VanNatter	Nate Stout
	Mark Hufford	
HD 39	*Danny Lopez	Lindsay Gramlich
	Billy Qian	
HD 40	*Greg Steuerwald	William Colteryahn
	Sid Mahant	
HD 41	*Mark Genda	Jackson T Hayes

HD 42	Tim Yocum	
HD 43	Amy Lore	*Tonya Pfaff
HD 44	*Beau Baird Clint Cooper	Kelsey Kauffman
HD 45	*Bruce Borders Kellie E Streeter	Rebecca Dawn Mayfield
HD 46	*Bob Heaton Thomas Arthur	James H Pittford
HD 47	*Robb Greene	Michael E Potter
HD 48	*Doug Miller	Carl Stutsman Emily Yaw
HD 49	*Joanna King	Monica Garbaciak Michelle Milne Susan J. Lawson
HD 50	*Lorissa Sweet	Pepper Snyder
HD 51	*Tony Isa Theresa Steele	Judy Rowe
HD 52	*Ben Smaltz Eve Peters	
HD 53	*Ethan J. Lawson	Reece Axel-Adams
HD 54	*Cory Criswell	
HD 55	*Lindsay Patterson	Victoria C. Martz
HD 56	Adam Blanton Randy Retter Pete A. Zaleski	Thomas Scott Rockwell
HD 57	Wes Bennett Greg (No Bull) Knott Rob Stiles Tina Turner	Suzanne Fortenberry
HD 58	Ed Brickley John Reed John Young	Michelle Hennessee Sears Eric Reingardt
HD 59	*Ryan Lauer	
HD 60	*Peggy Mayfield Mike Moore	Carrie L. Syczylo
HD 61		*Matt Pierce Lilliana Young

HD 62	*Dave Hall	Amy Huffman Oliver
HD 63	Amy Kippenbrock	Tiffanie Arthur
	Richard Moss	Anthony W (Tony) Bolen
		Adam Mann
HD 64	*Matt Hostettler	Candace (Candy) Greer
HD 65	*Chris May	
HD 66	*Zach Payne	Ryan Price
HD 67	*Alex Zimmerman	Justin Chadwick
HD 68	Garrett R. Bascom	Hunter B Collins
HD 69	*Jim Lucas	Chris Bowen
HD 70	John D. Colburn	Sarah Blessing
	Scott L. Fluhr	Jerry Finn
		Tamyra Persinger-Andres
HD 71	D.M. Bagshaw	*Wendy Dant Chesser
	James R. McClure, Jr.	
HD 72	Shawn M. Carruthers	Michele (Shelly) Henry
	Darrell Neeley	Cory Cochran
		Nichole Jones
HD 73	*Jennifer Meltzer	Allen J. (A.J.) Miller
	Jacob J. Johnson	
	Edward K. Comstock, II	
HD 74	*Stephen R. Bartels	
HD 75	*Cindy Ledbetter	
HD 76	*Wendy (Mac) McNamara	Logan A. Patberg
HD 77		*Alex Burton
HD 78	*Tim O'Brien	Sally Busby
HD 79	*Matthew S. Lehman	Ian G. Richardson
HD 80		*Phil GiaQuinta
HD 81	*Martin Carbaugh	Chad Clevidence
	David Mervar	Sharon L Wight
HD 82		*Kyle Miller
HD 83	*Christopher Judy	Wesley Haffenden
HD 84	*Bob Morris	Misti Meehan
HD 85	*Dave Heine	Mark (Bird) Wehrle
HD 86	Glenn Bill	*Edward O. DeLaney
HD 87		*Carey Hamilton
HD 88	*Chris Jeter	Stephanie Jo Yocum

HD 89		*Mitch Gore
HD 90	*Andrew Ireland	Kuren Singh Sikand
HD 91	*Robert W. Behning	Jarren Hurt
HD 92		*Reneé Pack
HD 93	*Julie McGuire	Eva M. Rosberg
HD 94		*Cherrish S Pryor
		André Sisk, Sr
HD 95		*John L. Bartlett
		Keith Graves
		Tyrrell Giles Quest
HD 96		*Gregory W. Porter
HD 97		*Justin Moed
HD 98		*Robin Shackelford
HD 99		*Vanessa J Summers
HD 100		*Blake Johnson

* Denotes incumbent

5. Saluting Mike McDaniel on His Outstanding Career

As we close-out our pre-election edition of the Krieg DeVault Take 5, it's only fitting that we take this time to recognize Mike McDaniel upon his retirement. Mike has been an integral part of Krieg DeVault's Governmental Affairs Practice Group for the last twenty-four years, and prior to joining our team, he served as State Republican Party Chairman for a record three terms, from 1995 – 2002. He's played a role in the last fifty-three consecutive sessions of the Indiana General Assembly in a number of capacities, including as Chief of Staff for then-Lieutenant Governor John Mutz and as Director for Governmental Affairs for his alma mater, Ball State University. A three-time recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, Mike will leave a legacy of leadership and of service that we should all strive to emulate. Always quick with a joke or a story, Mike makes every room he enters just a little bit brighter. His legacy at the Statehouse is unmatched, and while we were all fortunate to call him a colleague these last two decades, we are more fortunate to call him a dear friend.

Thank you for everything, Mike, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

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